alia, results in increased prawn output. The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying:

1. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through
   i. Motorisation of Traditional Crafts
   ii. Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil purchased by Mechanised Fishing Vessels below 20 M overall length
2. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture
3. World Bank Assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project

In addition to these schemes, the Marine Products Export Development Authority also provides assistance for setting up shrimp farms, shrimp hatcheries, broodstock bank and shrimp feed and seed.

Milk Production

†2. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is one of the largest milk producer;

(b) if not, what is the assessment of Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that an organisation named "Initiative" has submitted a study report to Government that 53 per cent children of the country are forced to live without milk; and

(d) if so, whether Government have inquired into the authenticity of this part of the report, if so, what are the facts thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir.

(c) The organisation named "Initiative" has submitted study report to Government, but there is no mention that 53 per cent children of the country are forced to live without milk. However, it is stated in the report that 53 per cent of Indian children under 5 are malnourished, in an age group where milk is a vital input for food and nutrition.

(d) No, Sir.

Rate of Rice Production

3. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice has not been increasing at the same rate as that of the requirement of the population;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in rice production in some States like Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether ICAR or any other body has studied the underlying causes of this slowing down of the rate of growth of rice production; and

(d) if so, what are the causes of this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The IX Plan has envisaged required growth rate to meet domestic demand of rice by 2.19 per cent per annum whereas annual average growth rate of rice production during the first two years of IX Plan is 2.6 per cent per annum.

(b) Rice production at all India level has shown increasing trend.